

Amendments to Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952.

Q.—491. Sri D. VENKATESH (Gandhinagar).—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

whether they would consider the feasibility of making suggested amendments in the Employees' Provident Fund Act to extend the application of the Act to all categories of workers?

A.—Sri A. G. RAMACHANDRA RAO (Minister for Law and Education).—

The Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952 and the Scheme framed thereunder are administered by the Central Government at present. The Central Government is empowered under Section (3) of the above Act to extend it to any Industry.

Sri D. VENKATESH.—If the suggested amendments are justified, will the Government consider the feasibility of recommending such amendments to the Central Government?

Sri A. G. RAMACHANDRA RAO.—If specific industries are notified, the Government will consider them.

Amendments to Employees' State Insurance Act.

Q.—492. Sri D. VENKATESH (Gandhinagar).—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

whether they would consider the feasibility of making suggested amendments in the Employees' State Insurance Act to extend the application of the Act to include family members?

A.—Sri A. G. RAMACHANDRA RAO (Minister for Law and Education).—

There is an enabling provision for the extension of the medical benefits under the Scheme to the family of an insured person in sub-section (2) of Section 46 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948. The matter is under consideration of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation.

Sri D. VENKATESH.—Will the Government extend the benefits of this law to the members of the family?

*Sri A. G. RAMACHANDRA RAO.—I have already said that the matter is under consideration.

Mysore City Merchants' representation re: Sales Tax.

Q.—83. Sri B. NARAYANASWAMY (Mysore City—South).—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

the representations made to the Minister in charge of Sales-tax, by the merchants of Mysore City regarding the difficulties they are undergoing by the imposition of sales-tax and the action taken to redress their grievances?

A.—Sri H. M. CHANNABASAPPA (Minister for Industries).—

No representations were made regarding difficulties by the imposition of sales-tax.

Representations made related to the working of the Sales Tax Act in practice and the interpretation of certain terms therein. Suitable instructions have been issued to the Commissioner of Sales Tax in the matter.

Sri B. NARAYANASWAMY.—May I know what were the representations made relating to the work of Sales-Tax in practice? What were the difficulties that were represented to the Hon'ble Minister?

*Sri H. M. CHANNABASAPPA.—There were several representations and they are too numerous to be mentioned here.

Sri B. NARAYANASWAMY.—May I know whether any representations were made regarding bangles?

Sri H. M. CHANNABASAPPA.—Just at this moment, I do not remember. Anyway, I would like to tell the Hon'ble Member that a number of representations by varied interests were made.

Sri S. SRINIVASA IYENGAR.—Will the Government be pleased to state the relevant provisions under which the Hon'ble Minister can instruct the Commissioner of Sales Tax?

Sri H. M. CHANNABASAPPA.—It is exclusively administrative instructions that were given.

Sri S. SRINIVASA IYENGAR.—In the enforcement of statutory provisions, can there be any administrative instructions?

Sri H. M. CHANNABASAPPA.—Administrative instructions in order to enforce the provisions of the Act.

Sales Tax Arrears due to Government.

Q.—208. Sri S. SRINIVASA IYENGAR (T.-Narsipur).—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) the total amount of sales-tax due to Government at the commencement of the year 1954-55 towards arrears;

(b) the number of dealers from whom this amount is due;

(c) the number of dealers from whom more than Rs. 10,000 is due, the total amount so due and from when;

(d) the names of such dealers?

A.—Sri H. M. CHANNABASAPPA (Minister for Industries).—

(a) Rs. 50,96,396 (including a sum of Rs. 5,92,753 pertaining to Bellary District received by transfer at the time of merger.)

(b) 10,960 cases.

(c) (i) 41.

(ii) Rs. 10,74,568.

(iii) From the year 1944-45 for Bellary District and 1948-49 of the State.

(d) Names of dealers cannot be furnished as such disclosure is contrary to the provisions of Section 24 of the Mysore Sales Tax Act.

Sri S. SRINIVASA IYENGAR.—Is it not a fact that arrears of sales tax should be collected as if they were arrears of land revenue?

*Sri H. M. CHANNABASAPPA.—It is provided in the law that arrears of sales tax should be collected as arrears of land revenue.

Sri S. SRINIVASA IYENGAR.—Sir, in that case, were distraint orders

issued in respect of these 41 defaulters who were due more than ten lakhs of rupees to the State?

Sri H. M. CHANNABASAPPA.—Action has been taken as per the provisions of law and they are at various stages of recovery.

Sri S. SRINIVASA IYENGAR.—May I know to what extent recoveries have been effected from these 41 people?

Sri H. M. CHANNABASAPPA.—Against Rs. 50,96,396 that were due so far as it stood on 30-8-1955, Rs. 20,38,396 have been recovered. I may tell the Hon'ble Member that to the tune of Rs. 5 lakhs stay orders have been issued by Government.

Sri S. SRINIVASA IYENGAR.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether Section 24 as mentioned by the Government applies to answers to be furnished by Government?

Sri H. M. CHANNABASAPPA.—*Prima facie* it is presumed that it comes within the purview of Section 24. Anyway it admits of further examination.

Sri S. SRINIVASA IYENGAR.—Will the Government be pleased to state at least the names of such of those who are due such a huge amount of sales tax to the Government for the last 7 to 8 years?

Sri H. M. CHANNABASAPPA.—Answers have already been given. As I told the Hon'ble Member just now, it admits of further examination and after further examination, if it is found necessary, I have no objection to state them before the House.

Sri Mulka GOVINDA REDDY.—Is it a fact that due to political considerations, effective steps have not been taken for the recovery of sales-tax amount from those people?

Sri H. M. CHANNABASAPPA.—In the recovery of dues due to Government no political views are taken into consideration.

Sri Mulka GOVINDA REDDY.—How is it that big people who owe thousands of rupees have not been made to pay those amounts for such a long time?

Sri H. M. CHANNABASAPPA.—If the Hon'ble Members bring specific instances to the notice of Government, they will take suitable action.